

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
February 2000

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office:

At the February 10, 2000 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission, the following items were discussed:

- Lt. Dallas Lipp made a presentation on the proposed 800mhz radio system.
- The Commission approved the continuation of the dispatch of a thermal imaging camera on specific types of incidents.
- The Commission approved the Senator Amoss Fund Policy which establishes a procedure for the application, acquisition, and allocation of Senator Amoss Funds.
- The Commission approved the Non-Emergency Reassignment of Apparatus Policy which will become effective when the existing Executive Regulation is repealed.
- The Commission approved the Standard Operating Procedure for Helicopter Landings policy.
- The response to Automatic Home Fire Alarms was discussed. The FRC elected to leave the current dispatch of one engine in place until a review of all incident types which is underway is completed.

Corporate Development Services:

Automation

Configured and installed 3 new network workstations and re-mastered 4 network workstations.

Distributed training vouchers to MCFRS personnel for computer software program courses.

Distributed an upgraded version of the automated SON program to all fire and rescue stations

Initiated the upgrading of the wide area network to Windows NT along with DIST staff

Responded to over 100 requests for automation assistance, and several data retrieval requests

Successfully modified an existing maintenance contract to include all CAD and

EMBRs printers.

Fleet and Facilities

Accepted the delivery of a refurbished 1989 aerial ladder truck from Seagrave Fire Apparatus and performed the delivery inspection on the unit.

Assisted the Office of Procurement with the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of brush trucks (2).

Attended several meetings relating to the construction of the new CRT Building, new Fire Stations #1, #2, and # 4, and the renovation of Fire Station #5.

Continued contract administration of active procurement contracts with Emergency One for aerial towers (3) and pumpers (3), and Wheeled Coach for EMS units (4).

Finalized the pre-order documents for the FY00 procurement of EMS units (5) and boats (1).

Finalized the delivery of a second 1989 aerial ladder truck to Seagrave Fire Apparatus for refurbishment. This unit will be sent to Seagrave in March.

Reviewed the draft Fire and Rescue Facilities Assessment document.

Grants Management

Prepared reimbursement documents for the CSX-Allegheny CRT response.

Processed sole source procurement documents for the acquisition of Cathsim IV Simulator Training for the Training Section.

Received Department of Justice County and Municipal Domestic Preparedness Grant monies (\$200,000) that will be used for the acquisition of Chemical/Biological Incident Response equipment.

Submitted reimbursement documents to the Public Health Services for the Metropolitan Medical Strike team (MMST) "State of the Union" response in January 2000.

Submitted reimbursement documents to FEMA for Urban Search and Rescue Team (USRT) Terrorism Preparedness.

Property Section

Assisted the DFRS Honor Guard and the SON program with several procurements of items relevant to their programs.

Attended meetings with the Office of Procurement, Police Department, and Sheriff's Office for the purpose of pursuing contract termination on 3 uniform contracts.

Prepared contract termination and urgent, non-competitive procurement justification documentation for submission to the Office of Procurement.

Prepared and submitted specification requirement documents for the re-bid of the terminated uniform contracts.

Processed 233 property transactions during the month of February 2000.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

The following names were submitted for the following committees:
Ned Sherburne, Steve Wolf and Tom Rhodes, Jr., for the 800mhz Committee
and Scott Emmons, Michelle Buteau and Eric Stomberg for the Terrorism Committee.

Requested automatic copies of each Council agenda in order to scan for any fire-related issues to be passed on to the Fire Board.

Met with Gordon Aoyagi, Chief Strock and Leonard King to prepare for various County activities at the MSFA convention.

The canteen availability situation is being reviewed toward total countywide service.

Meetings continue with Mrs. Moss, the Environmental Protection representative.

Began work on the possibility of energy conservation and lower costs for the LFRDs.

Began work on the Workmen's Compensation program as it applies to volunteer fire and rescue personnel.

Participated in a work session regarding communications capabilities in disaster situations.

Participated in a seminar regarding procurement and contracting.

Attended the dedication of a "new" canteen unit for the DCFD, under the direction of the FFA – to be housed at 31 Engine. This will also be made available to down county fire and rescue departments.

Participated in the FRC retreat.

Met with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Awards Committee for a final review of administrative proceedings for the Annual Valor Awards luncheon.

Attended the viewing and services for District Chief George Pitts, the Fire Board and FRC meetings, the Chiefs' Committee, the Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee, the Operations Committee, the Maryland Metro Chiefs Committee, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association meeting, a 508 review meeting, a radio Mobile Data meeting, the Burtonsville, Hyattstown and Cabin John Banquets, the Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC)

meeting, a budget review meeting with the County Executive and a CIP review meeting with the Public Safety Subcommittee (Co. Council).

The Division processed 25 physicals and 12 background checks.

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

The Bureau continues to develop a driver certification program, currently with 100 staff in training.

We continue to develop our community outreach program, and have begun identifying local interest groups. Over 100 groups will be approached this summer.

The Bureau is working to develop a pre-fire planning process for implementation targeted 7/1/00.

Safety:

Specialty Teams: The SWRT logged 133 training hours for personnel, including 52 drill hours. Specs for new rescue boat were finalized.

On February 16, the Team hosted a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Technical Rescue Association (MATRA) to discuss "Trench 2000", a trench rescue training seminar to be held this spring. The course will be held at Anne Arundel and Baltimore County facilities from May 5 - 7. Our Team will provide support and may send new personnel to participate as students.

On February 25, representatives of the Team, along with Fire Administrator Aoyagi, attended an after-action debriefing for the train wreck response in Allegheny County. The local fire chief, who had served as the incident commander, presented the Team with a plaque expressing their appreciation for our assistance during the rescue operation.

The Team hosted a meeting on March 6 to discuss the upcoming Collapse Rescue Technician Train-the-Trainer course. The course will be held at the Public Service Training Academy from April 6 through 16. The Team will have four members who will be students in the course. Other Team members will provide logistical support and program oversight.

Plans Manager Mark Deputy gave a presentation on US&R communications capabilities to the Emergency Management Group on March 15.

Collapse Rescue/Urban Search and Rescue:

BUREAU OF LIFE SAFETY SERVICES

Fire Code Enforcement

Community Education Safety Section

The Risk Watch pilot program has been completed in Montgomery County. Twelve teachers completed the pilot program. This program was very favorably received. Two of the teachers taught the program to additional classes, and several of their colleagues have requested Risk Watch materials. The average improvement in student's test scores (regarding injury prevention) was 7%.

We have already had one successful intervention as a result of the Risk Watch program; a four year-old child dialed 911 after his mother fell down the stairs and became unconscious. This incident occurred two days after the child received Risk Watch training at his Head start class. His parents attended a ceremony in February at his elementary school at which Mary Marchone, accompanied by Anne Harrison, presented the child with certificates from DFRS and the NFPA. Carlos Alfaro documented the ceremony. The class also received coloring books.

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In February, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 16 accidental fires, 11 incendiary fires, and one false alarm. Four of these incidents were large loss fires with damage estimated to be over \$ 150,000 dollars. The Bomb Squad responded to nine suspicious package incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 2, 494,000 and \$ 20, 650 for incendiary fires.

Fire claimed the lives of three of our citizens this month. A small fire that occurred on January 19th at 15101 Interlachen Drive immediately involved the victim who received burns to 40 % of her body. The victim died of her burns at the Med-Star Burn Unit on February 2nd. The cause of the fire was attributed to careless smoking. The second incident occurred on February 3rd at 817 Aster Blvd. This fire started in the second floor master bedroom/attic area. Both victims were overcome by smoke while trying to escape. The cause of the fire was undetermined due to the extensive amount of fire damage within the area of origin.

Fire and Explosive Investigators provide instruction to MCP Recruit Class 37 at the PSTA. Instruction included fire/arson investigation, explosive recognition and bomb squad operations.

The bomb squad assisted the local chapter of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators with a training day at the PSTA and the quarry located off of Piney Meeting House Road. Several different explosive demonstrations were performed including a pipe bomb under the front seat of a vehicle.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Terrorism Update- - Gordon Aoyagi and Kathee Henning attended a Pandemic Influenza Workshop where similarities in bio-terrorism and pandemic responses were discussed. Kathee Henning, Dep. Chief Ted Jarboe, and Lynn Frank from DHHS are participating in the Council of Governments Bio-Terrorism Defense Plan Working Group. A draft plan is under review, and recent discussions have focused on surveillance and handling of mass fatalities. The DC/regional "Top-Off" exercises scheduled for April and May will have a radiological terrorist attack for the scenario.

Community Outreach/Training – The partnership started with Y2K continues for community outreach efforts. Bob Nemchin from Emergency Management and George Gacser from PEPCO provided a Disaster Preparedness presentation to the employees of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving on March 14th. An evening class on "Communications During Disasters" was held March 15th for fire and rescue, police, volunteers, dispatchers, and state and local Emergency Management staff. Emphasis was placed on multi-agency response, new technologies since 1998, plans for the new 911 Center, and lessons learned from previous communications outages and EOC activations. Included in the discussion was the new transportable interoperability communication system purchased with Federal Weapons of Mass Destruction funds.

Haz-Mat Update – staff from Emergency Management started a pilot inspection program on January 10th to increase compliance with ER 19-93AM, heighten awareness of chemical reporting requirements, and improve communications with regulated businesses. Preliminary results were reported at the February LEPC meeting. The LEPC also heard about P2-the County Executive's new Pollution Prevention initiative.

PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

On February 25, 2000 the Bureau of Program Support and the Office of Human Resources (OHR) tested applicants at the Shady Grove Campus of the University of Maryland. Four hundred and thirty-seven applicants passed the exam. A questionnaire was completed at the time of the exam indicating that 63% of the applicants learned of the job by word of mouth, 24% by the internet and 12% by newspapers.

Recruiters attended a job fair at the Washington Convention Center on March 7, 2000 as part of the candidate physical ability program.

A new applicant guide book has been printed and is available in limited quantities from the Bureau of Program Support Services.

Interview teams will commence applicant interviews on March 20, 2000 for Recruit Class XVIII scheduled for September 11, 2000.

Communications - Tetlow

Firefighter John Lewis reported to work at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) on February 14, 2000, shift #3.

Firefighter Mike Baltrosky successfully completed call taking/dispatcher training and now is considering staffing (March 13, 2000) Shift #2.

Firefighter Malcolm Lyle Hayes (10/D) will start the interview and testing process for pending transfer to ECC on March 29th and 30th.

Master Firefighter Paula Franklin has successfully completed supervisor orientation on Shift #3.

Captain Patullo attending Association of Public-Safety Communications Officers (APCO) class "Liability Issues Concerning a 911 Center".

Training – Clemens

Of the 22 recruits currently in Recruit Class #16, 21 will graduate and one will be recycled when medically acceptable. The graduation ceremony for Recruit Class #16 was held on Friday, March 10th, at 1:00pm in the Auditorium of the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Center.

Recruit Class #17 began on February 14th. Of the 32 recruits who began the class two resigned effective February 18th.

The doorway expansion and room preparation for the new "Eagle" Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) compressor was completed. Installation of the compressor began on February 25th.

New master and lock cables were installed on Aerial Ladder Truck (T27) at the Training Academy.

EMT-Paramedic Class #20 continues with 19 students.

Eleven career EMT-Paramedics were awarded Paramedic status in February.